

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 15 are canceled and claims 1, 11, 14 and 24 are amended. No new matter is added.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on May 24, 2005. Applicant has not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 2-3, 5-9, 15-16, and 18-22. By this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into independent claim 14. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 4, 10-14, 17, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Farmer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,650,991 has been rendered moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-14, and 16-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Steven W. Allis
Registration No. 50,532

JAO:SWA/jam

Date: August 1, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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